John E.Echlin Jr. 321 Tom Fripp Rd. St.Helena Island South Carolina,29920

January 17,2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This letter is to express my support for the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Justice Department.

Enough damage has been done to the company by the pursuit of an unjust law suit that should not have ever happened.

Microsoft has taken steps that give competitors a lot of what they wanted, although to some it is not enough. Further pursuit could damage Microsoft beyond recovery.

Not only has Microsoft been forced to give up proprietary products, it has cost the company and the shareholders money and has distracted management from its primary goal of managing the company.

cc:Senator Strom Thurmond